

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 19, 2005. Claims 1, 5 to 8, 12 to 15, 19 to 22 and 26 to 36 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35 and 36 are independent.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants' representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment afforded during the February 1, 2006, telephonic interview with the Examiner. The following is believed to accurately summarize the substance of the interview.

Claims 1, 5 to 8, 12 to 15, 19 to 22, and 26 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Advisory Action dated January 4, 2006 indicates that the rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28 to 32 and 34 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,271,805 (Yonezawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,424,772 (Aoki); and Claims 6, 13, 20, 27 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yonezawa and Aoki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,621,429 (Yamaashi). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Specifically, in view of its issue date of August 7, 2001, Yonezawa qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), since the present application was filed on July 23, 1999. Furthermore, Yonezawa and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. As evidence of common-ownership, Applicants note that the face of the

Yonezawa patent indicates the assignee is Canon Kabushiki Kaisha, and the present application is also assigned to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha, as recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Assignment Division at reel number 010125, frame number 0414. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove Yonezawa as a reference for the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections.

Nevertheless, even if a combination of Yonezawa and Aoki, with or without Yamaashi, were permissible (a point that is not conceded), Applicants submit that such a combination still would not disclose or suggest the features of the present invention.

The present invention relates to the reception and display of frame images from a communication terminal. One feature of the present invention includes detecting whether or not a current frame image displayed by a display unit is updated by a next frame image being received. The display unit is caused to display a symbol indicating an update state of the received frame images. The symbol is displayed on a predetermined area of the display unit at a time when the corresponding frame image is displayed. The symbol is caused to be displayed in a first condition corresponding to an updating state when the detecting detects that a current frame image displayed by the display unit is updated by a next frame image, and the symbol is caused to be displayed in a second condition corresponding to a non-updating state when the detecting detects that a current frame image displayed by the display unit is not updated by a next frame image. In this way, a user can more quickly assess when a currently displayed frame image is updated by a next frame image. This feature can be helpful, for example, in identifying disruptions of frame image reception from communication terminals while the communication terminals are operating.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 defines a communication apparatus comprising a reception unit for receiving frame images generated from a plurality of communication terminals and an output unit for outputting the frame images received by said reception unit in order to display the frame images for each respective communication terminal on a display unit as multiple image displays corresponding respectively to each of the plurality of communication terminals. The apparatus also comprises a detection unit for detecting whether or not, for each respective communication terminal, a current frame image displayed by the display unit is updated by a next frame image being received by the reception unit. The apparatus also comprises a notification unit for causing the display unit to display, for each respective one of the multiple image displays, a symbol indicating an update state of the received frame images for the respective image display. The symbol is displayed on a predetermined area of the display unit at a time when the corresponding frame image is displayed. The notification unit causes the symbol to be displayed in a first condition corresponding to an updating state when the detection unit detects that a current frame image displayed by the display unit is updated by a next frame image, and causes the symbol to be displayed in a second condition corresponding to a non-updating state when the detection unit detects that a current frame image displayed by the display unit is not updated by a next frame image.

Independent Claims 8, 22 and 35 are method claims, independent Claims 15 and 31 are apparatus claims, and independent Claims 29, 30 and 36 are storage medium claims which are seen to generally correspond to independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 to 31, 35 and 36, and in particular, is not seen to

disclose or to suggest at least features of detecting whether or not a current frame image displayed by the display unit is updated by a next frame image being received, causing the display unit to display a symbol indicating an update state of the received frame images, wherein the symbol is displayed on a predetermined area of the display unit at a time when the corresponding frame image is displayed, and wherein the symbol is caused to be displayed in a first condition corresponding to an updating state when the detecting detects that a current frame image displayed by the display unit is updated by a next frame image, and the symbol is caused to be displayed in a second condition corresponding to a non-updating state when the detecting detects that a current frame image displayed by the display unit is not updated by a next frame image.

The Office Action concedes that Yonezawa does not disclose causing a display unit to display a symbol indicating an updating state of received frame images. Similarly, Yonezawa is not seen to disclose or to suggest detecting whether or not a current frame image displayed by the display unit is updated by a next frame image being received.

Aoki is seen to relate to a mode changing device for a camera that automatically switches to a playback mode when the camera is connected to an external apparatus. (column 4, lines 26 to 40 of Aoki). In playback mode, the starting and stopping of a playback operation is controlled by depressing play switch SWP, which causes display of either a fully illuminated PLAY icon corresponding to a playback operation in progress or a flashing PLAY icon corresponding to a stand-by condition. (column 25, lines 42 to 65 of Aoki).

While Aoki might disclose display of a fully illuminated or a flashing PLAY icon based on depressing a play switch SWP, Aoki is not seen to disclose or to

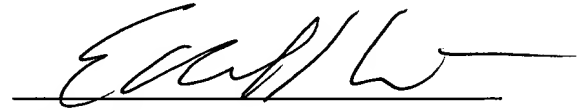
suggest detecting whether or not a current frame image displayed by the display unit is updated by a next frame image being received, causing the display unit to display a symbol indicating an update state of the received frame images, wherein the symbol is displayed on a predetermined area of the display unit at a time when the corresponding frame image is displayed, and wherein the symbol is caused to be displayed in a first condition corresponding to an updating state when the detecting detects that a current frame image displayed by the display unit is updated by a next frame image, and the symbol is caused to be displayed in a second condition corresponding to a non-updating state when the detecting detects that a current frame image displayed by the display unit is not updated by a next frame image. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35 and 36 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward A. Kmett', written over a horizontal line.

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